UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF ALASKA

KIMBERLY ALLEN, Personal Representative of the ESTATE OF TODD ALLEN, Individually, on Behalf of the ESTATE OF TODD ALLEN, and on Behalf of the Minor Child PRESLEY GRACE ALLEN,

Plaintiffs,

VS.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Defendant.

Case No. A04-0131 (JKS)

VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION OF DONNA A. FEAREY

Pages 1 - 102, inclusive

Monday, April 11, 2005, 1:53 p.m.

Anchorage, Alaska

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Page 60

talk to me.

in your mind about his wife?

time before.

Donna Fearey Deposition April 11, 2005

Page 57 1 O. Uh-huh. 2 A. You mean the -- it -- it could be either the 3 LPN or myself. 4 Q. Okay. And then let me just go through --5 and is that typical, that the -- the -- is Pat -- let 6 me back up. Is -- is Pat Ambrose, is she a registered 7 nurse who does the triage? 8 A. Yes. 9 O. All right. And is this typical, that --10 that the registered nurse who is doing triage would 11 write up in that left-hand box? 12 A. Yes. 13 Q. And then that you would be doing the -- the 14 notes under "Provider, Called to Room, Seen at"? 15 A. Yes. 16 Q. All right. Has this document -- do you know 17 if these emergency visit records have changed since 18 this time, or is this pretty much the standard form? 19 A. As far as I know, it's the standard. It was 20 that way in -- up till Christmas. 21 Q. Okay. Okay. So let's go through it. First 22 of all, do you have an independent recollection, as 23 you sit here, of this visit? 24 A. Yeah. 25 Q. What -- what do you remember? Page 58 1 A. Do -- do you want me just to tell you 2 every --

13 Q. Okay. So - but at - at this morning, 14 you -- you had not remembered seeing him? 15 A. No. No. 16 Q. Anything - do you remember any interaction 17 with his wife? 18 A. No. I didn't talk to her. 19 O. Okav. 20 A. Or she didn't talk to me. I can remember 21 when they were leaving, you know, them -- you know, when I was talking to him, that she was, you know, 23 with him. But I didn't talk to her and she didn't

Q. Okay. Anything - anything that stands out

Q. He wasn't -- he wasn't holding a --

wasn't rushed. It -- it was a very benign visit.

A. It was a good interaction. You know, it

That's -- I mean, I don't remember anything beyond

A. I didn't realize I had, but I had seen him,

since I've looked at the records. But that was some

Q. Had you seen – do you know this patient?

A. A bucket, you know, to vomit in.

Q. Anything else?

that, I mean, specifically, I guess.

Had you seen him before?

3 Q. I'm curious, as you sit here, what -4 everything that you remember. What's your independent

5 recollection? A. I remember walking in the room, and he was sitting on the exam table. And a woman - I assume that's Mrs. Allen - was sitting at the -- there's an 9 area for other people to sit in the room. And I 10 remember him telling me that he had drove from Valdez 11 12 or the mountains, he started having increased pain on 13 his right ear. And he thought it could have been 14 related to the pressure changes of the altitude. And 15 he wanted -- and it -- and it had bothered him and he 16 wanted to know if he had an ear infection. 17 Q. Anything else you remember, just -- just

the day before; and when he was going through the pass 18 sitting here that you independently recollect? 19 A. I remember he was -- you know, he -- he did 20 not -- he was not in any distress. He was sitting 21 there very comfortably. He was very calm when he was 22 talking to me. He -- I -- he was not holding his head. He wasn't -- he was sitting there very calmly. He was not vomiting. He wasn't holding an emesis 25 basin.

•			
A. Huh-uh.			
Q. All right. So when you I'm trying to			
think of you doing this without you having to read the			
entire note again. But it says, chief complaint,			
ear/jaw pain. And had you talked to the the RN who			
had done triage on him? Or			
A. No.			
Q. – is that – and is that pretty typical,			
that they just —			
A. Yeah.			
Q send send the patient in to you, and			
you wouldn't necessarily interact with the triage			
nurse about the patient?			
A. Right.			

A. Uh-huh. Q. Do you - did you have his chart, do you remember? I would have had his chart. Q. If you hadn't had his chart, would there be some other way for you to know that? A. Yeah. It would be on -- with the computer. We can pull up medications.

Q. And it says that his pain meds -- says,

"pain contract," and then it says "Percocet, Valium."

April 11, 2005

Donna Fearey

Deposition

Page 63 Page 61 1 Q. Okay. And then --Q. And how does that work when the -- do you 1 2 A. Four -- yeah, four and two. usually have the patient's chart with you? 3 Q. Four and two? A. Pretty -- pretty typically, yeah. 3 4 A. Yeah. 4 Q. Who pulls that? 5 Q. All right. And this -- would this have been A. The clerks when they check in. They put an 6 the beginning of your shift? order in for it, and then it comes in a pneumatic 6 7 A. Yes. 7 tube. Q. Who writes at the very top -- it says, 8 8 Q. All right. And are there some times when 9 they just ean't find the patient's chart and you don't "Clinic 80, 30, 51." First of all, what -- do you know what that is? 10 10 have it? 11 A. 80 is urgent care, and 30 is emergency 11 A. Uh-huh. 12 department. And 51, I -- I'm not sure. 12 Q. Okay. 13 Q. Okay. 13 A. Or it's at another clinic or --14 A. I think it's phone. I don't know. Q. All right. And so in those circumstanees, 14 15 O. And then the triage levels, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 15 would -- would -are those related to the policy that we showed -- that 16 A. Well, you would use the computer, if you 17 we were looking at that's marked Exhibit 3? need to, when we talk to the patient. 17 18 A. Yes. 18 Q. Okay. Do you specifically remember whether 19 Q. And who writes the triage level down? 19 or not you had the patient's chart with you or --20 A. The triage nurse. 20 A. I had his chart. 21 Q. All right. So you didn't write that in 21 O. Do you -- do you know whether or not they 22 there. 22 had a hard time finding it or it took a while to get 23 it or-23 A. No. 24 Q. 1s that correct? 24 A. No, because they wouldn't have. I saw him 25 25 right away. A. No. Page 64 Page 62 Q. All right. On this - the top of the Q. All right. And do you remember how many 1 1 document, it says "pain contract." Do you remember 2 other patients were in the ER that morning? talking to this patient? Again, your independent 3 A. I -- I don't remember it being busy, so I --3 recollection. Do you have an independent recollection 4 I can't say for sure. Q. All right. And at this point, had -- were 5 about talking to this patient about his pain contract? 5 A. I know that I would have, because I wrote, 6 6 you working full time? 7 at the bottom, "with pain contract, no narcs," because 7 A. As full time as I ever did: 30 hours. 8 I always talk to patients about -- you know, about 8 Q. All right. 9 9 that. A. Yeah. 10 Q. And what do you mean? Can you -10 Q. And had you - have you been working essentially that kind of day shift full time since --11 A. I would just --11 12 Q. - explain that to me? If you - you always 12 since this time? 13 talk to patients about that. 13 A. I --14 A. Well, if they're on -- if they come for 14 Q. Let me ask that - it wasn't - I didn't ask 15 pain, then they are -- I just -- if they're on a pain it very well. Had -- up until December, when you left ANMC, had you been working the day shift? 16 contract, I would just always let them know that I 16 17 can't give them anything for pain through the urgent 17 A. Yeah. 18 care ---18 O. All right. And 30 -19 Q. Okay. 19 A. Yeah. 20 A. -- and document that. 20 $Q_{ij} = 30$ hours a week. Is that correct? 21 Q. Got it. And it looks at the top like he 21 A. Yeah. Yeah. 22 Q. All right. Did you have specific days that 22 had - he had medications --23 A. Yeah. 23 you worked? Q. -- Percocet and Valium? 24 A. Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday one week 25 25 and Saturday, Sunday the next week. A. Yes.

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Donna Fearey Deposition April 11, 2005

Page 65 1 Q. And so would that have been the

- Q. And so would that have been the medications that he was prescribed, not by you but --
- 3 A. No.
- Q. -- that, in general, that he had prescriptions for those?
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. And so do you recall whether or not he was discussing with you that -- that history of -- you know, that -- that -- why he was on pain medication and -- that he was on pain medication?
- 11 A. That he was on it for his -- his past 12 medical history.
- Q. Uh-huh. Okay. And so it looks like you took down this history: Can't keep Percocet down, secondary to nausea --
- 16 A. Uh-huh.
- 17 Q. -- last --
- 18 A. Night.
- 19 Q. -- last night. Okay. And what was that -- 20 and did that have any significance to you?
- 21 A. Did?
- Q. That he had been taking Percocet but couldn't keep it down.
- A. I'm not quite sure what you mean by did it have any significance.

Page 66

- Q. Did it -- did it mean anything to you that
 he couldn't keep Percoeet down secondary to the nausea
 last night?
- A. Well, I was aware of it, that he had nausea 5 last night.
- 6 Q. Okay.
- A. And, you know, so he couldn't take his painmedicines in that way.
- 9 Q. All right. Did -- do you know whether or 10 not this patient had been vomiting?
- 11 A. He -- he had told me he vomited the night 12 before.
- Q. Okay. And then what's of what significance did it have to you that he ate a large meal last — the last night?
- A. I probably asked him, you know, what did you guys eat last night, when he told me he had nausea.
- Q. Okay. So was this was the significance to you that it could have been something he ate the night before? That's what I'm just trying to understand.
- 22 A. Yeah, it could have been. Yeah.
- Q. And the next line after "did eat large meal last p.m.," it says alert to -- I'm sorry. Let me
- 25 find my --

Page 67

- A. Alert male, no acute distress, speech slow.
- Q. Okay. And what what did you mean by his speech was slow?
 - A. Just that. Just that. It wasn't pressured.
- 5 It wasn't...
- Q. When you say it wasn't pre- I'm just
 trying to understand that. When you say it wasn't
 pressured, was he speaking normally, or was his
 speech I'm just trying to understand what "speech
- speech = 1 in just trying to understand what speech slow" means.
- 11 A. He -- he wasn't -- just what it says, I
- 12 guess. 1 -- I -- I ean't really -- he wasn't -- he
- 13 wasn't anxious. He wasn't agitated. He was...
- Q. Okay. And what's the -- let me just ask you: Is that normally how you document that a patient is not agitated or --
 - A. Yeah.
- Q. You would normally write that their speech was slow?
- 20 A. I would write their speech was pressured,
- 21 their -- somebody that's angry, I'll write -- I
- usually write something, a couple of descriptivewords.
- Q. Okay. About their and I'm just on the speech part. Is the something about the patient's

Page 68

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- speech, does that -- is that something that you use as a clue to yourself --
 - A. No.
 - Q. -- to alert you as to whether or not they're agitated or --
- 6 A. Well, it would -- it could be. But I mean,
- 7 1 could just write that they looked -- you know,
- 8 patient looks miserable or -- I mean, I'll just
 9 usually write something.
- 9 usually write something.10 O. Okay. And then
 - Q. Okay. And then what's the next line?
- 11 A. Tympanic membranes bilaterally a bit cloudy 12 but mobile.
- Q. Okay. And what does -- I don't know what that means.
- A. His eardrums, that -- that they weren't
 clear, but they -- but they moved, meaning he didn't
 have an ear infection.
- Q. And how did you -- did you -- did you do that by looking, or how did you test that?
- A. By looking. And we have a little tube that is on the otoscope that you can squeeze while you're examining him. And if their eardrums move, then they're mobile.
- Q. Okay. And what about the -- the next line?
 A. Nares, no discharge.

Donna Fearey Deposition April 11, 2005

Dom	na Fearey Depos	SITIO	n April 11, 2005
	Page 69		Page 71
1	Q. All right. And and that was if you	1	A. Uh-huh.
2	could explain that to me.	2	Q. Was he in there looking for — for pain
3	A. Just looking in his nostrils, you know, just	3	meds, or what was he -
4	to	4	A. No. He was okay with that. He he
5	Q. Okay.	5	said you know, I believe he said something to the
6	A. He doesn't have a runny nose. He doesn't	6	effect, that's that's okay. I think he wanted to
7	have	7	know why his ear was bothering him.
8	Q. All right. And then what's the what's	8	Q. Okay. Do you remember him saying anything
9	the next line?	9	about any part any other part of his head hurting?
10	A. His pharynx is pink.	10	A. I I'm when he indicated his ear, it
11	Q. All right. Anything unusual there?	11	was this area here, on the right side.
12	Anything remarkable?	12	Q. Okay. This area here on the right side of
13	A. No.	13	his head?
14	Q. Okay. Was that a normal	14	A. Yeah, uh-huh.
15	A. That would have been a normal exam.	15	Q. Any other description about how his head
16	Q. Okay. And then right across from that it	16	hurt –
17	says is that a positive click?	17	A. No.
18	A. Yeah. And tenderness, bilateral TMJ.	18	Q that you remember?
19	Q. Okay. And then how did you was that just	19	A. No.
20	something that you heard, or was there	20	Q. Okay. Why did you give him Phenergan?
21	A. You can	21	A. Because with the nausea and he couldn't
22	Q some examination you did or	22	take his pain medications my reasoning was to give
23	A. When you get them to open their mouth, and	23	him something for the nausea so that he could take his
24	you this kind of has a clunk or click sound. And	24	pain medicines.
25	he did it and he was tender.	25	Q. Okay. And what is what's Phenergan?
	Page 70		Page 72
1	Q. All right. And how did you test whether or	1	A. It's an antiemetic. It helps with nausea.
2	not his neck was supple or stiff?	2	Q. And then does it also have sort of a
3	A. I usually I put my hands around their	3	narcotic effect or
4	neck just to feel for lymph nodes and have them look	4	A. No. It can make people drowsy.
5	up and look down.	5	Q. Okay. And I – I probably didn't ask it
6	Q. All right. And then what's the what's	6	very well. It can - it can make people drowsy?
7	the next line?	7	A. Uh-huh.
8	A. No nodes, no lymph nodes.	8	Q. If somebody is taking – I'm just curious.
9	Q. All right. And the line after that?	9	If somebody actually is taking narcotics and they take
10	A. Lungs clear to auscultation; and heart rate,	10	Phenergan, does - is there a synergistic effect
11	regular rhythm and rate, no murmur.	11	between them?
12	Q. Okay. And then is it your writing under the	12	A. I I think that's what I don't I
13	"Purpose of Visit/Problem List"?	13	don't know that that's, in fact, the science of it,
14	A. Yes.	14	but I think that's how I often practice.
15	Q. Okay. And then at the bottom, I wanted to	15	Q. Okay. You would practice in terms of
16	ask you about that. It says aware - if you could	16	assuming that that would be the case?
17	read that.	17	A. Yeah.
18	A. Aware with pain contract. No narcotics.	18	Q. All right. So if you can if you
19	Q. Okay. And what do you remember about that?	19	remember, did you leave the room and go get the shot
20	Or let me ask it this way: Was - was this you	20	of Phenergan, and did you because it looks like you
21	saying, look, he's got a pain contract, and, you know,	21	actually gave him a shot that morning. Is that
22	I'm not going to give him any narcotics or -	22	correct?
23	A. Yeah. That that is exactly.	23	A. Correct. I I would have written this up,
24	Q. Okay. And is this and that's something	24	and the nurse would have given him the shot.
25	that you discussed with him?	25	Q. Okay. And then it says Phenergan is it

Donna Fearey Deposition April 11, 2005

Page 73 Page 75 1 25 ---1 Q. Okay. Do - do you have any idea how -- how 2 A. Uh-huh. 2 much time you spent with this patient? Q. Is it milligrams? I'm sorry. 3 3 A. Around ten minutes, 15 minutes. 4 A. Yeah. Yeah. 25 milligrams orally every six 4 Q. Okay. And then that last line, it says, 5 patron - patient has Motrin. hours, and I gave -- as needed, and I gave him six. 6 6 A. Uh-huh. Q. Okay. And how about right above that? 7 7 That's what I was -O. Is that correct? 8 A. Phenergan 25 milligrams I- --8 A. Uh-huh. 9 9 intramuscularly now. Q. And what -- was that something you had 10 Q. All right. And so where was that given to 10 specifically asked about? I'm just curious what -11 him? 11 A. Well, the Motrin class of medicines are 12 12 often used for pain, and it's good for inflation A. The right glute, she wrote. 13 Q. Okay. And is that the nurse's --13 (sic) -- inflammation. And he had it. 14 A. Uh-huh. 14 Q. Was this - does - so what was the onset of 15 Q. - writing? 15 his pain? 16 A. Uh-huh. 16 A. When he was driving in from the mountains, 17 Q. Okay. And what's the number right above 17 coming in from Valdez, was my understanding. 18 18 Q. All right. And then was he somebody who was 19 19 A. The time she would have given it to him, suffering - do you know whether or not he was 20 20 8:00 o'clock. suffering from photophobia at all? 21 21 Q. All right. And then when you're seeing a A. I don't think he was. I -- I don't have it 22 patient, like let's say -- looks like he's called to 22 documented, but I don't recall him -- you know, the 23 room at 7:35. He's seen at 7:40. And is 7:40 when 23 light -- the bright lights over his head didn't bother 24 24 you're able to go into the room and actually see him? him doing an exam. Didn't bother him. 25 25 A. Uh-huh. Q. All right. Do you know when the maximum Page 74 Page 76 Q. Are you -- are there other patients that intensity of pain was for him with this particular 2 you're kind of seeing at the same time? How -- how headache? 3 does that work in the UCC? 3 A. No. 4 4 A. There would be. I don't know that there was MR. GUARINO: Excuse me. You have to be 5 5 when I was seeing him, but typically there's, you careful in terms of listening to the question. She 6 6 know, one patient after another. asked you about headache, and you have been talking 7 7 O. Okay. So would it be - I'm just eurious if about earache and jaw pain. And she just asked you a the practice generally is that you would be talking to 8 question in terms of headaches. So if you're a patient, leave the room, go see another patient, 9 intending to agree that he had a headache as opposed 10 come back and spend time with that patient. Is that 10 to the pain you described, you need to be careful in 11 correct? 11 terms of the questioning. 12 A. Typically in the urgent care you -- you 12 BY MS. McCREADY: 13 could go see him, evaluate him, write your diagnosis 13 Q. Let me ask you this: Was this a patient who and what they need. And you're basically -- you're 14 had -- would you describe him as having a severe done, I mean -- you know, unless they need IV fluids 15 15 headache? and you're reevaluating and reassessing him. A. No. 16 16 17 Q. Okay. I'm trying to understand whether or 17 Q. Okay. And why not? 18 not you were actually seeing this patient between 7:40 18 A. Because he wasn't complaining of a severe and - okay. Well, let me ask you this: Were you in 19 headache. And his demeanor in the room, he didn't 20 the room when the nurse gave him the shot of the 20 look like he had terrible pain, even with -- with his 21 Phenergan? 21 ear pain and jaw pain. 22 22 A. No. No. Q. Okay. Would -- would you describe him as 23 Q. Okay. So is there any note on here, record 23 having severe pain in general?

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A. No.

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A. No.

in here, when you would have left the room and -

Q. Okay. How about - well, did he -- did he

Donna Fearey Deposition April 11, 2005

Page 79 Page 77 present to the ER - what was his -- did he -- did he O. Did you rule out that he had a migraine? 2 2 A. It would have been in my thoughts, but with present to the ER in pain? 3 3 his past medical history, that wouldn't have been what A. That was -- when he went to triage, you I had thought that he had going on. 4 mean, what he was -- I mean, that's what he said, is 5 Q. Did you rule out that he had a subarachnoid 5 his ears and his head are hurting. 6 6 MS. McCREADY: Okay. Let's go off record hemorrhage? 7 7 for just a second. I just -- I just want to look at A. His exam and his history, it was not high 8 my notes for a moment. on -- it would not have been on the top of the list. 8 9 9 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Off record, 3:09. Q. Okay. And -- and again, why -- why would 10 10 you -- why would you say that? (Recess taken.) 11 A. Because I had a patient sitting there who 11 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We're back on record at 12 had a history of chronic pain in the same area he was 12 3:12. BY MS. McCREADY: 13 13 showing me that he had pain, and on exam he had pain 14 Q. So would you describe his pain as -- as 14 there. And he wasn't any -- in any distress on my significant, "his pain" meaning Todd Allen's pain in 15 15 exam. He was very comfortably sitting there. 16 O. What experience have you had working with 16 April of 2003? 17 17 A. In -- in terms of when I -- when I walked in patients who have had a suba- -- who have a 18 the room to see him? Is that what you mean? 18 subarachnoid hemorrhage? 19 19 A. I have seen -- I -- I have seen patients at Q. Sure. 20 Providence when I was there and I have had patients 20 A. No. Q. Okay. Did that seem odd to you that 21 that there was something about their headache that was 21 22 somebody shows up at the ER and --22 one of those red flags that got a CT or got an LP and 23 23 were ruled out. A. No. 24 24 Q. Okay. And so I'm just trying to get a Q. - with a complaint of pain and --25 25 A. No. sense. When you were at Providence -- first of all, Page 80 Page 78 1 Q. Okay. Why -- why not? did you have any experience with patients with 2 2 subarachnoid hemorrhages when you were in Nome? A. Because you see a lot of patients who come 3 3 A. I don't think so. in for, you know, real similar, you know, ear pain or 4 toothache or back pain or -- I mean, we just see a lot 4 Q. Okay. And in your -- how many years were 5 5 you at Providence? Ġ 6 A. Eight. Q. Okay. So you wouldn't even consider it that 7 7 the pain that he was describing was significant? Q. All right. And - and how many -- how many 8 A. No. 8 times that you had - in that eight-year period, had 9 9 experience with a patient who -- who ends up having a Q. Was it different than the pain he'd -- he'd 10 experienced in the past? 10 subarach- - subarachnoid hemorrhage? 11 11 A. I -- I don't know. I -- I knew that I had A. I didn't think so. 12 Q. And what was that? What do you mean, that 12 them, but I couldn't tell you a number. 13 Q. And I'm just wondering if it's -- I just --13 you didn't think so? 14 A. Having had pain in his ear, in his jaw on 14 is it less than ten? Is it more than ten? Do you 15 the right, with his history of mandible fracture 15 know? 16 16 and -- and my exam, which he already had pain there A. I don't know. 17 17 when I, you know, checked that area, it seemed Q. All right. Did it happen every year? Did 18 18 consistent. it happen --19 Q. Did you - do you remember talking to him 19 A. I would imagine, but I -- I don't know. But 20 20 about whether or not this was pain that was different I -- I know that I definitely took care of patients 21 21 than what he had experienced before? with subarachnoid hemorrhages. 22 22 A. No, I don't remember. Q. Okay. And were they patients that you were 23 Q. Do you remember talking to him about whether 23 taking care of in terms of as a - as a triage nurse 24 or not this was the worst pain he had? 24 or as -- as a provider? 25 25 A. No. A. As a registered nurse when I was at